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(54) Title: **WHOLE CELL ASSAY INVOLVING CATHEPSIN S**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of identifying and evaluating chemical inhibitors of cathepsin S activity in whole cells. The present invention also relates to probes that are capable of forming irreversible adducts with cathepsin S at the active site. The probes used in the instant invention comprise radioactive functional groups to allow the detection of the irreversible cathepsin S-probe adducts.

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